



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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AICTE TO ASSESS EMPLOYABILITY OF ENGG, MBA STUDENTS
MBA students will be tested on their ability to plan and organise human, financial and physical resources. Engineering students' awareness about emerging areas such as blockchain technology, artificial intelligence, and core engineering will be tested, apart from basic knowledge of maths, physics and chemistry. Mental and social abilities will also be measured | P9

Sidhu drops out, stunned Gandhis stuck in big mess

His loyalists, too, put in their papers; setback for Priyanka who was his biggest supporter

HARPREET BAJWA & RICHA SHARMA
@Chandigarh/New Delhi

TWO months after taking over as Punjab Congress president, Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday suddenly announced his resignation, pushing the party into a crisis months ahead of Assembly elections. Hours later, cabinet minister Razia Sultana and two state congress office bearers also stepped down in support of Sidhu. The cricket-turned-politician's resignation came soon after the allocation of portfolios to the members of the state cabinet led by Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

According to sources, Sidhu was upset as most of his suggestions were ignored. "The collapse of a man's character stems from the compromise corner. I can never compromise on Punjab's future... I hereby resign... Will continue to serve the Congress," read Sidhu's resignation letter addressed to Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Sources said the decision has not gone down well with Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, who are trying to handle the situation tactically, keeping in mind upcoming Assembly elections. It is also considered a setback for Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra, who pushed for Sidhu's elevation as PCC chief.

"I will talk to Sidhu and sort out the differences if any... If he is upset about anything, it will be settled," said Channi.

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal sought to play down the development, saying, "All will be ok in Punjab Congress. Sidhu's reaction is emotional."

However, many other senior leaders feel that no olive branch should be extended to Sidhu. Former Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh termed Sidhu's resignation a sheer drama. Singh said his former cabinet colleague was preparing the ground to quit the Congress and join hands with another political party in the run-up to the state Assembly polls. "I had been saying all along that this man is unstable and dangerous, and cannot be entrusted with the task of running Punjab," said Amarinder, adding that Sidhu was an incompetent minister in his government.

WHAT MIFFED HIM
Sidhu was miffed as deputy CM Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa was given the Home portfolio



Mood swings on the cricket ground too

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

FORMER chief minister Amarinder Singh had an I-told-you-so moment as news broke of arch enemy Navjot Singh Sidhu resigning as head of the Punjab Congress unit. "I've known this boy since his childhood. He has been a loner and can never be a team player," he remarked, adding, "That's what his real character is."

Going by Tuesday's tantrum, Amarinder appeared to be spot on in describing his rival. It's well known that Sidhu returned home midway through the Test tour of England in 1996 following differences with the then India captain Mohammad Azharuddin. Right through his playing days, including an international career that spanned nearly 16 years, Sidhu was never part of the leadership group. While his temperament was seen as a reason, his teammates also felt he was never the one to take responsibility.

State gives ₹2,500-cr boost to Upper Krishna Project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TO give a push to the Upper Krishna Project (UKP), the State Government on Tuesday decided to provide an additional allocation of ₹2,500 crore for land acquisition and to shift all offices of Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Ltd (KBJNL) from Bengaluru to Almatti.

After reviewing the project with Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol and senior officers, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said they decided to provide ₹2,500 crore this year for resettlement and rehabilitation of villagers.

Shifting all KBJNL offices to Almatti, filling up vacant posts, appointing additional staff to expedite the land acquisition process, shifting legal experts from Legal Cell at the head office in Bengaluru to UKP office in Bagalkot and appointing a special government advocate to handle land acquisition cases at Dharwad and Kalaburagi bench of Karnataka HC were some major decisions taken.

To ensure that water from the UKP I and II stages reach tail-end farmers, the government will re-work and modernise field irrigation channels, Bommai said.

NATIONWIDE	SEPT 27	SEPT 28
Fresh cases	26,041	18,795
Recoveries	29,621	26,030
Deaths	276	179

KARNATAKA	SEPT 27	SEPT 28
Fresh cases	504	629
Recoveries	893	782
Deaths	20	17

HC junks order on Baba Budangiri

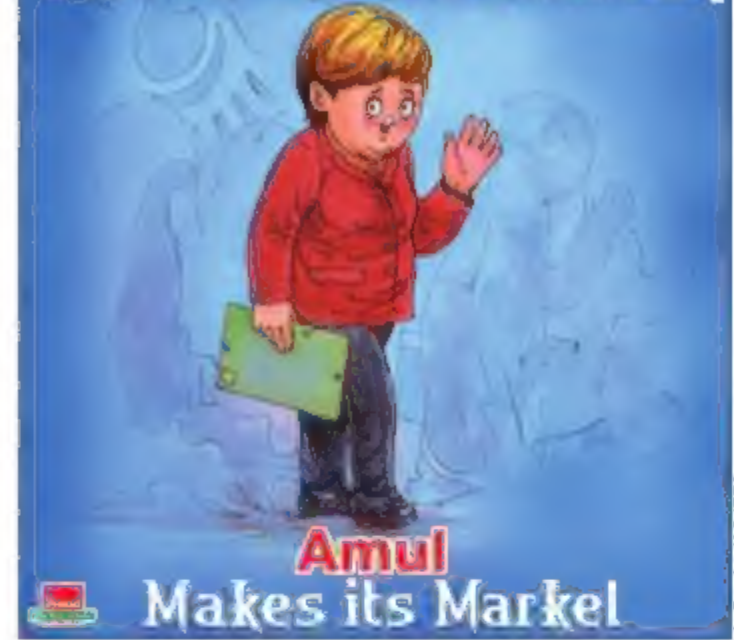
Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday quashed an order passed by the State Government in 2018, authorising only the Muzawar appointed by Shah Khadri to perform daily rituals at the sanctum sanctorum of the Baba Budangiri shrine in Chikkamagaluru | P6



2 DAYS, 2 BUILDINGS

A three-storeyed residential quarters of Bangalore Milk Union Ltd (BAMUL) employees, located near Dairy Circle, collapsed in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Fortunately, there were no casualties. This is the second such mishap in two days in the city. On Monday, another three-storeyed building collapsed in Lakkasandra | SHIVAN DH | P2

Great Gerwoman!



KANHAIYA JOINS CONGRESS TO SAVE IT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar on Tuesday joined the Congress, saying the country can't be saved if the oldest party in the land is not. Independent Gujarat MLA and Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani did not formally join because of a technicality, but announced he will contest the Assembly elections on a Congress ticket.

"I have decided to join the country's oldest party and democratic party because I feel along with the lakhs of youths that if the Congress is not saved, the country will not be saved," Kanhaiya said. "The country is in danger. We need the courage of Bhagat Singh, equality of Ambedkar and unity of Mahatma Gandhi," he added.

Kanhaiya's induction could create some unease with the RJD, its bigger alliance partner in Bihar, given he and Tejashwi Yadav don't share good vibes. The Congress is looking to give Kanhaiya a big role in Bihar, one reason why it withheld its organisational reshuffle in the state. Some Congress leaders, too, were upset, wondering why a Left-leaning youth leader had been inducted.

Kanhaiya resigned from the CPI earlier in the day with the party's general secretary D Raja saying that the former had expelled himself from the party.

Department of Health and Family Welfare

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

WORLD HEART DAY 29th SEPTEMBER

USE HEART TO CONNECT

Use of tobacco products, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity are dangerous to the heart.

Delay in diagnosis and initiation of treatment for heart attack due to delay in reaching the treatment centre during the "Golden Hour" increases the incidence of death.

Protect your heart by regular exercise, healthy diet and maintaining ideal body weight.

Avoid use of tobacco products for a healthy heart.

Creating awareness regarding healthy lifestyle leading to a healthy heart is the aim of 'World Heart Day'

Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education, Dr. K. Sudhakar participating in a Walkathon

For more details please call 24X7 Toll-Free Health Helpline 104

Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene, Get yourself vaccinated

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FROM ₹1,00,001 TO ₹3,00,000	25%	₹2,500
FROM ₹3,00,001 AND ABOVE	30%	₹3,000

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